

Guide to National Cancer Institute Information Resources

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) maintains two comprehensive cancer information databases—**PDQ®** and **CANCERLIT®**. These databases were developed and are maintained by NCI's Cancer Information Products and Systems (CIPS) program to provide access to up-to-date cancer information.

PDQ

PDQ is a dynamic database that is updated regularly to ensure that the information it contains is consistent with the results of the latest cancer research. PDQ contains: cancer information summaries describing the latest advances in cancer treatment, supportive care, screening, prevention, and genetics; an extensive register of more than 1,800 ongoing clinical trials, with information about studies around the world; and directories of more than 60,000 physicians and almost 4,000 organizations active in cancer treatment and care. Most cancer information summaries appear in two versions: a technical version for the health professional and a nontechnical version for patients, their families, and the public. Most are available in English and Spanish versions. The information in the database is peer reviewed by editorial boards of oncology experts and is updated monthly.

CANCERLIT

CANCERLIT is a bibliographic database. Also updated monthly, it contains references to the vast realm of cancer literature published from the 1960s to the present. More than 1.5 million citations and abstracts from over 4,000 different sources (including biomedical journals, proceedings, books, reports, and doctoral theses) are found in CANCERLIT. Most CANCERLIT records contain abstracts, and all records contain citations and information such as document type and the language in which the document was written.

How to Obtain Information From PDQ and CANCERLIT

Health professionals and the public can access cancer information from PDQ and CANCERLIT in several ways, either on their own or with assistance from NCI. Both databases are available online and via CD-ROM through various commercial and nonprofit information distributors. A list of NCI's current distributors can be obtained by contacting the Licensing Coordinator at:

Licensing
CIPS
National Cancer Institute
9030 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20814–1519
Fax: 301–480–8105
E-mail: license@icic.nci.nih.gov

To Search for Information, Use . . .

CancerNet™

The NCI's CancerNet Web site provides both health professionals and the public access to a variety of information on cancer. Full-text PDQ information summaries on CancerNet

describe the current information in cancer treatment, supportive care, screening, prevention, genetics, and complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in cancer care. Clinical trials information from PDQ is also available on CancerNet. Most of the cancer information summaries and clinical trials information can be retrieved in two versions: a technical version for health professionals and a nontechnical version for patients, their families, and the general public. Fact sheets on a range of cancer topics can also be found on CancerNet, as well as the entire CANCERLIT database, specially created topic searches from the CANCERLIT database, and selected information from the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. Another helpful feature is links to other Web sites that have been selected and reviewed for quality and reliability by experts in oncology.

Access: The URL is **<http://cancernet.nci.nih.gov>**

CancerMail

Selected cancer information can be accessed through e-mail. PDQ's full-text summaries on cancer treatment, supportive care, screening, prevention, genetics, and CAM are available on CancerMail, as are fact sheets on current cancer topics and specially created topic searches from the CANCERLIT database. Selected information is available in Spanish.

Access: An e-mail message can be sent to **cancermail@icicc.nci.nih.gov** with the word "help" in the body of the message; a contents list and instructions will be returned via e-mail.

CancerFax®

CancerFax is a fax-back document delivery service that makes selected information from PDQ and other NCI information available to the public via fax. PDQ's full-text summaries on cancer treatment, supportive care, screening, prevention, genetics, and CAM are available on CancerFax, as are fact sheets on current cancer topics and specially created topic searches from the CANCERLIT database. Selected CancerFax information is available in Spanish.

Access: CancerFax can be contacted by calling 301-402-5874 from the telephone on a fax machine and following the voice prompts to retrieve the information needed. (The fax machine must be set to touch-tone dialing.)

We Are Here to Help . . .

Cancer Information Service

The NCI's Cancer Information Service is a national information and education network for patients, the public, and health professionals. From 14 regional offices covering the entire United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, trained staff provide the latest cancer information through a toll-free telephone service. Staff can respond to calls in either English or Spanish.

Access: The toll-free number is 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237). For deaf and hard of hearing callers with TTY equipment, the number is 1-800-332-8615. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., local time. Callers also have the option of listening to recorded information about cancer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

PDQ/CANCERLIT Service Center

This service performs customized PDQ and CANCERLIT searches for health professionals. Physicians and other health professionals can make requests and receive information through a toll-free telephone service, by e-mail, or by fax.

Access: The toll-free number for the PDQ/CANCERLIT Service Center (in the United States) is 1-800-345-3300. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., eastern time. Requests can also be faxed to 1-800-380-1575 (301-897-9563 outside the United States) or sent via e-mail to **pdqsearch@icic.nci.nih.gov**.

National Cancer Institute Information Associates Program

The National Cancer Institute Information Associates Program (IAP) is a special program available to subscribers to the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. The IAP provides easy access to substantial cancer information resources that can be obtained in print, by fax, or by computer. Benefits include the following:

- One copy of each new *Journal of the National Cancer Institute Monographs*.
- 24-hour-a-day access to PDQ.
- Toll-free access (in the United States only) to CancerFax.
- A customer service line staffed with knowledgeable Member Service Representatives who can provide information about the Program and its benefits, answer questions about using NCI's electronic products, or walk members through conducting a PDQ search.
- Access to the PDQ/CANCERLIT Service Center.
- ProtoCall™, the Information Associates' newsletter, which keeps members in touch with program news and the latest NCI publications.

- A subscription to a listserv, which automatically sends regular e-mail announcements to those who sign up. These automatic messages provide news from the NCI, including available resources, changing programs, and recent meetings and reports.

Information about the IAP can be obtained by calling the Member Service Center at 1-800-624-7890 (301-496-7600 outside the United States), or by sending an e-mail message to **iap@icic.nci.nih.gov**. The Member Service Center is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., eastern time.

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Sources of National Cancer Institute Information

Cancer Information Service

Toll-free: 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

TTY (for deaf and hard of hearing callers): 1-800-332-8615

NCI Online

Internet

Use <http://cancer.gov> to reach NCI's Web site.

CancerMail Service

To obtain a contents list, send e-mail to cancermail@icicc.nci.nih.gov with the word "help" in the body of the message.

CancerFax® fax on demand service

Dial 301-402-5874 and listen to recorded instructions.

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